

## FISCAL NOTE

### SB 3446 - HB 3552

March 18, 2004

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Allows spouses and dependent children of P.O.W.s, M.I.A.s, and service personnel who died as a result of combat to receive the HOPE scholarship without meeting the initial high school grade point average and college entrance testing requirements. Any student who received a HOPE scholarship under this bill would be required to meet the college grade point average requirements in order to retain the scholarship. A student who is already eligible for tuition assistance under present law would be allowed to use the HOPE scholarship toward room and board, which shall not exceed the maximum cost of room and board provided through the facilities of the eligible public postsecondary institution.

A spouse who qualifies for a HOPE scholarship under this bill must enroll in school within 10 years of the date of death, imprisonment, or report that the armed services member is missing in action. If such spouse of the armed services member remarries, the spouse's eligibility under this bill would terminate.

Present law allows a waiver of tuition, maintenance fees, student activity fees and required registration or matriculation fees to state colleges and universities for every spouse and dependent child in this state under 21 years of age, whose spouse or parent was killed, died as a direct result of injuries received, or was officially reported as being either a P.O.W. or M.I.A. while serving honorably as a member of the U.S. armed forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict or was formerly a P.O.W. or M.I.A. under such circumstances.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact - Increases expenditures of lottery funds for scholarships and grants by an amount estimated to be less than \$10,000.**

T.C.A. 49-7-102 currently waives all tuition and fees for the spouse and children provided in this bill until they reach the age of 21. The Tennessee Board of Regents and the UT Board of Trustees report that only two students are receiving this benefit. Therefore, the potential cost of providing the lottery scholarship and grants to these individuals would increase expenditures of lottery funds by approximately \$8,000. UT indicates that it has been several years since the previous recipient in this category was enrolled.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director